

INSIDE: Close Up on Omaha's gangs. See pages 6 and 7.

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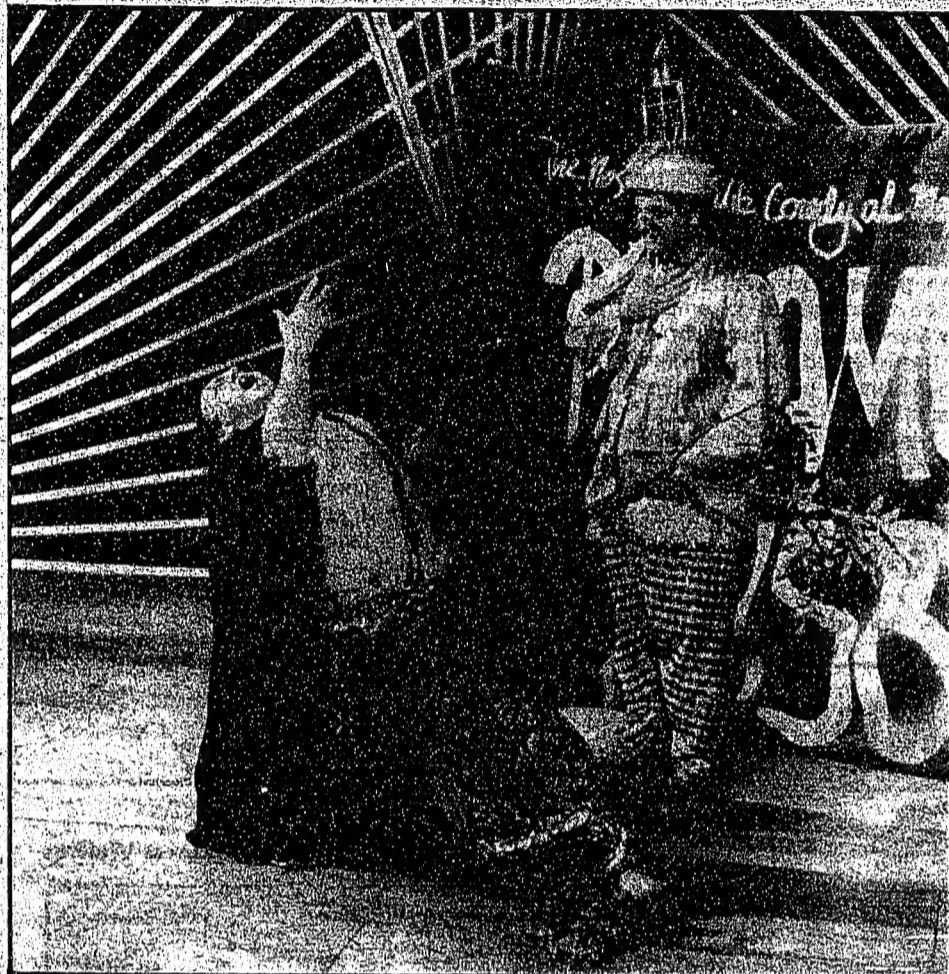
THE

GATEWAY

July 1, 1988

Volume 87, Number 62

The University of Nebraska at Omaha



— Gerry Phaneuf

Must have been something he ate . . .

Robin Starveling (Keith Hale) portrays Moonshine and watches Pyramus (Charles Carroll) enact a death scene during a comic interlude in *A Midsummers Night's Dream*. Hale is one of 11 UNO students participating in *Shakespeare on the Green*, which concludes July 10. For more on the festival, see page 10.

Victims focus of UNO study

By STACEY MEISENBACH
Contributing Writer

Omaha crime is the focus of a study being conducted by two UNO criminal justice professors.

The survey, developed by Lorie Fridell and Cassia Spohn, will explore crime and its victims. But unlike the National Crime Survey it is modeled after, the Omaha study will present a detailed look into who is, and who is not, victimized in Omaha.

The survey will determine the extent and types of crimes being committed against people older than 12 years of age, Fridell said.

Fridell said Omaha is the only city con-

ducting this type of survey, which began May 9.

"About one-half to two-thirds of all the crimes in Omaha don't come to the attention of the police," she said. "So to get more valid indicators of the crime in Omaha, we need to go out, as we're doing, to visit representative citizens and ask them whether or not they have been victims of crime. That way we'll get reported as well as unreported crimes."

Fridell explained that people would be willing to participate in this survey though they had not reported crimes to police.

"More than is commonly known, people

See Survey on page 12

Wadman says local media 'hype' Omaha gang threat

By TIM TRUDELL
News Editor

The gang problem in Omaha has been exaggerated by the media, according to Omaha Police Chief Robert Wadman.

Media attention has had an impact—a negative impact—in the majority of cities with gang-related violence, Wadman said. The media have a fascination with gang violence, Wadman said. They seem to thrive on it, "using it to hype movies, like Sean Penn in *'Colors'*, and in commercials, like Nike's basketball shoes," he said.

Wadman said he doesn't approve of the way local media have handled the gang situation, claiming they have contributed to scaring the public.

"The gang situation is not out of control in Omaha," the chief said. However, the media have not done a good job relaying that message, he added.

"Our problem is important, and the manner in which the media deal with it creates feelings of not reality, but perceptions," of

a more serious situation than exists, he said.

"What I would like to see the media concentrate on is not the few people who are gang members, but the many young people who don't want any part of gangs," Wadman said. "Out of 100 inner-city youths, how many would you think join gangs? Maybe 10. Ninety out of 100 don't want anything to do with gangs. I would like to see attention on those youths rather than the attention given to those other 10."

Despite the media attention, Wadman said he believes the police division has taken steps to control the gang situation.

The division is developing a 10-year program designed to control the growth of gangs in Omaha, he said. The program entails combining narcotics investigation, the organized crime division and collecting information, as well as working with civic

See Chief on page 5

UNO students finish in top 3

Miss Nebraska nears goal

By TIM TRUDELL
News Editor

Jodi Miller, a UNO student, fulfilled a childhood dream when she was named Miss Nebraska 1988 last month.

Miller, an elementary and special education major, will represent Nebraska at the Miss America Scholarship Pageant in Atlantic City, N.J., Sept. 10.

Miller said she became involved with pageants because of the scholarship potential. The Miss America Scholarship program offers more than \$5 million in financial assistance, said Cheryl Boe, director of the Miss Omaha Scholarship Pageant.

"They are the second largest source of scholarship funds for women," Boe said. The federal government is the main source for aid, she added.

Miller said it has always been her dream to participate in the Miss America pageant.

"I remember watching it on TV when I was 3-years-old and wanting to be Miss America," she said.

If she realizes her dream, it would be a first for Nebraska. Miss Nebraska has



Miller

never won the Miss America title, she said.

Miller said she has been involved with

See Pageant on page 5

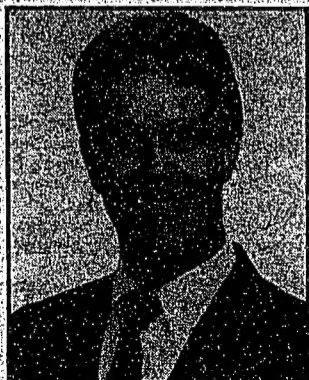
Afghanistan needs major aid to rebuild, Gouttierre says

By TIM KALDAHL
Senior Reporter

"What Afghanistan needs now and in the future is a 'Marshall Plan' aid package to help the nation recover from the effects of the Soviet Union's invasion," said Thomas Gouttierre, dean of International Studies and Programs.

Gouttierre spent 10 days in Pakistan as a member of the International Rescue Committee Inc., a fact finding agency.

"We came up with some primary findings and some recommendations to Congress and UN (United Nations) organizations," Gouttierre said. Gouttierre joined the committee May 28 in Islamabad and



Gouttierre

then went to Hangu, south of Peshawar, near the Afghan border.

"What's needed is a Marshall Plan kind of focus," he said. The Marshall Plan is the program that rebuilt Western Europe's economy after World War II.

Gouttierre travelled to Geneva, Switzerland, to present some of the committee's findings after meeting with President Zia of Pakistan and various Afghan refugees. This was Gouttierre's third trip to Pakistan this year. Gouttierre said he was not able to get into Afghanistan because of security reasons.

"It's the world's largest refugee problem," he said. Five million Afghans have been displaced by the war, Gouttierre added. About 1.5 million have been killed since the Soviets crossed the border in late 1979. What the Afghans need now is basic aid, such as food, clothes and security, he said.

"It's just incredible," Gouttierre said. "We don't think of the destruction. We're so far removed physically from that part of the world."

Initial relief efforts would take at least a year, he said. The entire recovery process could extend well into the next century.

Gouttierre's ties to Afghanistan are stronger than most, he said. Gouttierre lived in the country for 10 years, both in the Peace Corps and as a Fulbright Scholar. He also directed the Fulbright Foundation in Afghanistan, he said. In addition, he coached the Afghanistan national basketball team. Gouttierre said he hasn't been inside Afghanistan since 1979.

Gouttierre said he spoke with old friends, including members of the team he coached, while in Pakistan. Several members of the team were commanders in the Mujahideen, the Afghan freedom fighters, he said. Gouttierre said his friends want to go back home, but not yet.

"They still are skeptical," Gouttierre said. His friends are going to wait until the government set up by the Soviets is gone. He said it should take a year or year-and-a-half at the most.

"Afghans have an attachment to their homeland that's extremely strong," he said. "They really have an intense desire to go back to their homes."

Gouttierre has been in Washington, D.C., this week presenting his findings on the Afghan situation to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

COMMENT KABOOM!

City fireworks ban fails to halt aspiring pyromaniacs

The kids in the Metro are arming themselves ... again. No, they aren't gang members, skinheads or anti-social huns, but rather folks trying to celebrate the fourth of July with enough fire power

Tim Kaldahl
Gateway Columnist

to lose a finger, a hand.

In Omaha all fireworks are banned, even sparklers. In surrounding towns (including mine), the fireworks stands went up this past week. The mild fireworks are street legal in most of Nebraska. But those aren't the fun ones that everyone wants to have. Ladyfingers and Black Cats just don't have enough boom to be interesting. M-80s, bottle rockets and the ever-popular Cherry

Bombs make the fourth an event.

According to the fire marshal's office in Lincoln last year, the state had 66 injuries and suffered \$17,000 in fire damage because of fireworks. With the drought this year, things could get worse, a lot worse. Brush fires move quickly.

Ever read the instructions on fireworks? OUTDOOR USE ONLY. LIGHT FUSE AND GET AWAY. ADULT SUPERVISION. NOT TO BE TAKEN INTERNALLY.

What a joke. Seven-year-old kids light firecrackers, hold them for a second and then toss them at their friends. It's a tradition — stupid, but a tradition. Older children work their way up to Roman Candle fights. Ever been hit by a round from one of those things? They sting plenty.

For fun, ride down to Rockport, Mo. It's an annual pilgrimage. Car loads of semi-adults in daddy's vehicle (often with daddy

driving) head south to pick up the finest products of Hong Kong and Taiwan.

"Don't you have something with a little more kick?" is a common question in the stores and tents. In some they keep the really nasty stuff, big bottle rockets, M-80s and M-1000s, behind the counter. M-1000s can blow up the neighbor's trash can, the neighbor's cat, the neighbor's kid.

Anything the size of an M-80 or bigger in Nebraska is defined as an explosive. It's a felony to possess them. M-1000s are equivalent to one-third of a stick of dynamite.

The fourth is better than Christmas for a lot of kids. At Christmas you get clothes. On the fourth you get gun powder and a tremendous way to let off steam.

For 51 weeks of the year, parents don't let their kids play with fire. Once a year, they encourage their kids to be pyromaniacs. Sort of conflicting messages there.

Last year I had to call it quits with fireworks. In the middle of a bottle rocket fight with a dozen friends on a Platte River sand bar, one backfired and singed my hair. A couple inches lower and it would have been an eye. Bottle rockets are a misdemeanor offense in Nebraska.

Fireworks are great, stupid, dangerous fun. The price of a good time is too high if it involves personal injury.

Even the dead aren't left alone. Graveyards are always a popular place for fireworks. The head stones are perfect to hide behind and launch explosives.

The smell of smoke will hang over many parts of Omaha and the suburbs until July 6 or 7 when the ammo runs out. The sounds of explosions, kids giggling and dogs whimpering under porches are all part of the whole Independence Day deal.

Hiding under the porch sounds like the safest thing going right now.

VIEWFINDER

Q: How does the new non-smoking policy on campus affect you?

Opinions solicited by Liz Welling



Chris Mislivec, senior Elementary Education

"It's nice that there's non-smoking. But it wouldn't be fair if the whole campus was non-smoking. They should have designated areas. It's a hard habit to break."



John Maloney, Math & Computer Sciences Professor

"Since I don't smoke, it doesn't really affect me. I do think they should have designated areas to smoke inside the building, though."



Angie Holz, freshman Undeclared

"I don't like it. It's discriminatory."



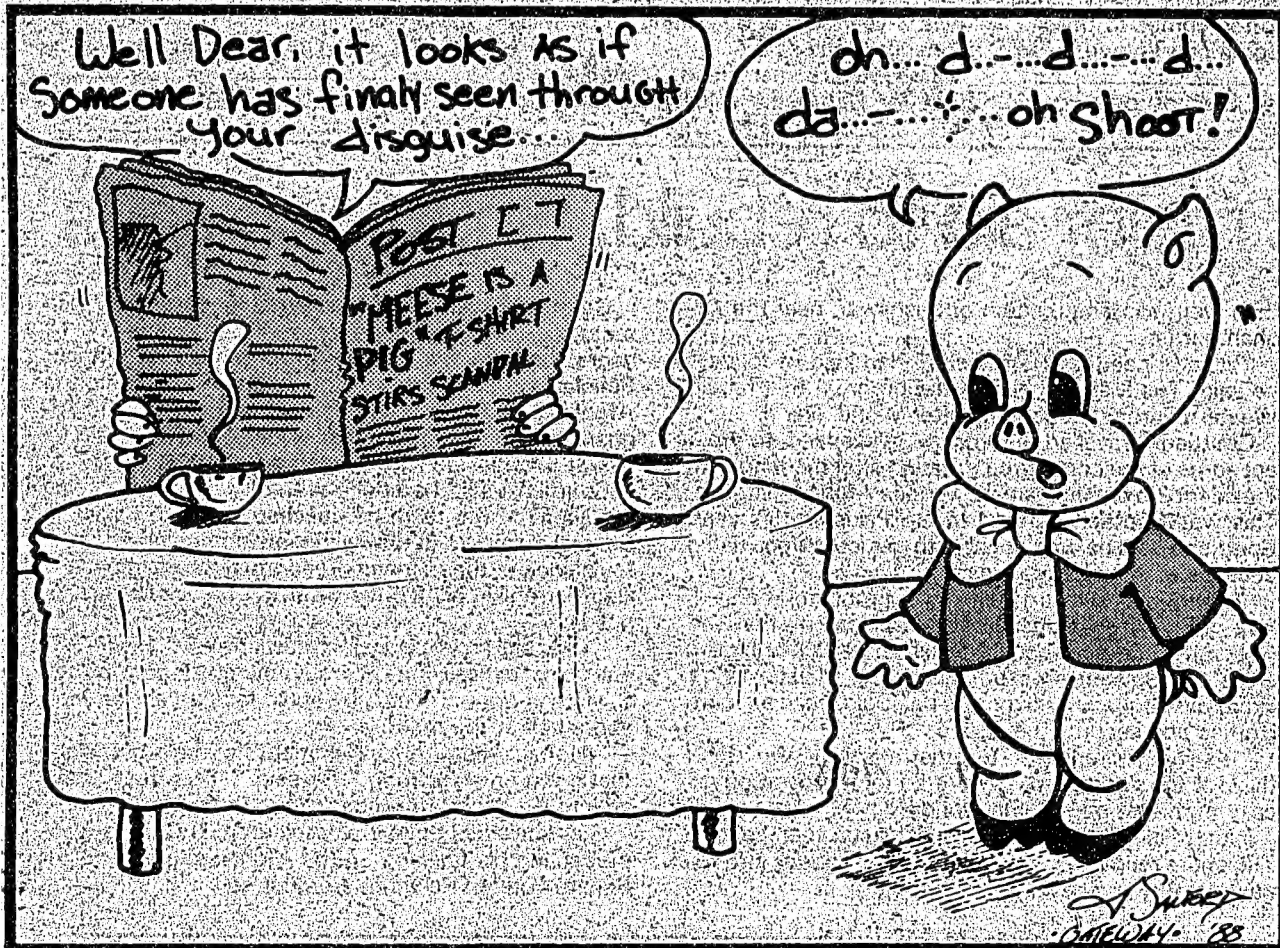
Shawn Carr, junior Mechanical Engineering

"It doesn't bother me."



Don Leffler, sophomore Civil Engineering

"I just came out of the military, where smoking was allowed only in designated areas. I thought it was a violation of my civil rights then, and I still do."



THE GATEWAY

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OPINION

Jogger provides sweaty lunch-time sanity check

Yeah, it was hot out last week. And as I write this, it's still pretty damn steamy out there. People adapt to the heat in different ways. Most people just sweat. That's what I do.

I was walking leisurely across Central Park on my lunch break Monday, eating a hot dog and looking fairly corporate in my fine-pressed shirt and tie. And it was hot, probably just around 105 degrees with 60 percent humidity, the sun at its zenith pouring down deadly ultraviolet rays which everyone knows by now cause SKIN CANCER. Yes it was hot, and I was sweating.

Anyway, I was just walking around, see, and up next to me runs this big sweatball in maroon shorts and tank top. He snapped his wrist back in a jujitsu-like motion and looked into his hand.

"Twenty-eight 59. Whoo. Personal best, man." He walked next to me and sorta loosened his shoulders, shaking his hands and letting the stop watch drop around his neck with a sweaty splat.

I turned to him, since he was walking right next to me emitting a smell that can only be described as offensive, and said, "Geeze, it's hot out, how can you stand jogging in this heat?"

He didn't even think about it, he just re-adjusted his

Adidas head band, looked at his Seiko shockproof and said, "Man, I gotta run. I gotta keep up because if I don't, I'll feel like shit the rest of the day because I didn't run. So it doesn't matter if it's hot out or not, I'm committed to this life, ya know."

He stopped to pull up socks that looked embarrassingly

Tim McMahan

Gateway Columnist

out of place with the rest of his wardrobe. Apparently he forgot to bring his white running socks and wore the dark, argyle ones that coordinated with his three-piece hanging in a corporate locker room somewhere.

"You have to do this thing everyday," he said, still panting. "I never seem to have it in me to wake up early enough in the morning to do my run, so I have to do it during my lunch hour. It seems to be working well, except for the heat. But hey, I can live with that, man."

He pulled a piece of Gatorade-gum out of a change pocket in his shorts and popped it into his mouth. At this point, I was ready to drop from the heat, and here was this freak, jumping on one foot while he pulled his leg

behind his back, stretching the muscles in his thigh.

"I guess five people died from the heat last week in St. Louis," I said. "I hear this heat wave is supposed to last another week or so. God knows how many more are going to die."

"Yeah, some people can't live without air conditioning," he said, doing jumping jacks. "We've got central air at our place, so it's no problem. Hey, I gotta go. Nice talking to you."

He sped off across the street, running toward the ConAgra building like a bronze Olympian forging across the windswept fields of Athens.

It made me think about the fragility of man and the role determination plays in this game we call survival.

Actually, it made me ponder the nature of stupidity. Deep down inside, I was hoping that poor jogger would collapse from a stroke, and, as I ran up to his now fetal body, I would hear him whisper his last request before he trotted across the river Styx.

"Fifty-nine 50," he whispered. "Personal best. Don't let them repossess the Saab."

Then he dies. I walk away from the scene as the ambulance pulls up. I walk back to work, tie loosened, a scorching wind blowing back my hair. Sweating.

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OPINION

Independence Day approaches . . .

Freedom of speech doesn't mean freedom from guilt

By JUDITH BIEKER
Guest Columnist

Every morning I thank God I was born a white man.

I'd have put that in quotes, but I can't remember the exact wording or the name of the man who said it. But those are the bare bones of a statement I heard a few years ago on a National Public Radio feature about a nationwide rally of those who

position that all men are created equal," more than those who ventured from their native lands to begin anew in this country; more than those who fought in wars abroad and at home, through rice fields and governmental red tape; the price is inestimable in the number of men and women mutilated every day under the military regimes established by the U.S. government for the sake of security here on the homeland.

The price is incalculable in the atrocities against non-white, non-Christian, non-heterosexual people who are allowed to continue unchecked here on the homeland, this great land of "liberty and justice for all."

If you don't believe me, just pick up the newspaper, turn on your television or tune in your radio for news from Chile, Iran, Nic-

Consider the current administration's tacit approval of apartheid in South Africa, then listen to our president denounce the Soviet Union for human rights abuses.

aragua, Panama. Consider the current administration's tacit approval of apartheid in South Africa, then listen to our president denounce the Soviet Union for human rights abuses. Just try to get up on Sunday morning for church in an age of misled Christian fundamentalists committing criminal acts in the name of their exclusive God.

Like the national debt, the toll of heinous physical, sexual, psychological and emo-

tional abuses of human life escalates violently and uncontrollably, abroad and at home, on a farm in Nowhere, Neb., and right next door in YourCity, USA, and no one is taking the responsibility at the very least to "Just Say No" (a well-meant but wholly meager response, one must admit, to many of the abuses we encounter daily).

It is a violence fueled by ignorance, supported by what now must be congenital apathy, and all of these — violence, ignorance and apathy — are only a few of the many faces of fear.

I wish I knew what everyone is so afraid of, what it is so desperately being protected. I really don't believe we're protecting our freedom because we're so enslaved by the habitual denigration of anything that isn't like us.

And I wish I had an answer, if for no one else than for myself. I'm having a hard time today living with the debt of these lives.

I really don't know how anyone can live freely when so much is owed. So much that it can't be repaid.

ACCESS

believe white is *Right* (and anything else is wrong).

The man who owns that line was addressing the vast numbers of white people gathered. He was frighteningly sincere in his statements and prayers to the great white god he invokes in the name of all things white and *Good*.

The constitutional imperative of freedom of speech allows him to say such things with impunity, and that bothers me. Even though I understand intellectually that the Constitution protects and defends this man's rights as much as anyone else's, I am sorely perplexed: Just what is it that we are so adamantly protecting?

As our national Day of Independence nears and as we focus on celebrating life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, I become more and more aware of the global price that is paid for my freedom.

More than our forefathers who "brought forth upon this continent a new nation conceived in liberty and dedicated to the prop-

MAILBAG

Prof remembers long-time staffer

Letter Policy: Letters will be selected for publication on the basis of timeliness, clarity and available space. The editor reserves the right to edit all letters for publication.

Letters must be signed using the first and last name or initials and the last name. Letters must include the writer's address and phone number, although this information will not be published. Letters exceeding two typed pages will be designated commentary and will be considered for publication as an Access column. Requests to withhold names will not be considered.

Editor:

We wish to remember Marilyn Covault

in death as we remember her in life. She was a dedicated inter-library loan coordinator. She was competent and kind, and we will miss her.

Duilio T. & Bonnie Pedrini

Editor's Note: Marilyn Covault served UNO for 14 years as a library assistant until her death from cancer in April 1988.

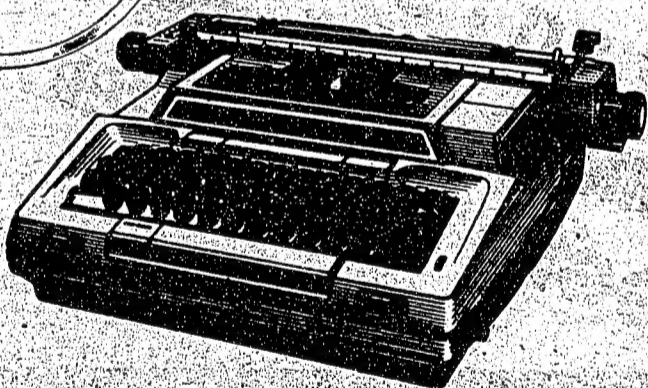
Corrections

In the July 17 issue of The Gateway, UNO tuition rates for 1988-89 were incorrect. The correct costs per credit hour are: resident undergraduate, \$45.25; resident graduate, \$56.50; non-resident undergraduate, \$122.25; and non-resident graduate, \$134.00.

In an April 29 story, "New smoking plan extinguishes on-campus tobacco sales" an extra "l" was added to Dave Castilow's name.

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Chief from page 1

organizations, Wadman said. "It would be foolish for the police to believe it could deal with the situation in a vacuum," he said. "The problem is community-wide and must be dealt with by the community."

Police representatives have met with Boy's Club officials to develop activities for vulnerable youths, he said.

"We have to come up with alternative things for these young people to do," he said. "Activities for youths most vulnerable to gang activity (ages 12-14) are limited. There must be recreational activities for these people."

The foundation city officials have laid will benefit youths in the future, Wadman said. However, police still must deal with present gang problems, he added.

There are between 10 and 20 Los Angeles-based gang members in Omaha, he said. The presence of these gang members has raised public concern about the gang issue in the city, Wadman said.

Gang violence in Los Angeles has created a stir in communities where members of the two largest gangs (Crips and Bloods) have gone, the chief said. Last year, there were more than 300 gang-related murders in that city.

The goal of the police is to drive the gangs out of Omaha, Wadman said. One way to do this is to prevent them from dealing drugs, he said.

"We've had substantial success in arresting and prosecuting drug dealers," Wadman said. "It's (drug dealing) like any other business — they are looking for the easiest and best way for profit making."

"Our goal is to make the cost of doing business in Omaha too expensive. And we're doing that by letting them know we know they're here and by making arrests and prosecutions."

Wadman said he is concerned with media attention over "crack," a derivative of cocaine. Wadman said he doesn't want to base his drug enforcement on crack alone.

"I don't know if we're supposed to be concentrating on crack or finding out what the real drug threat in Omaha is," he said.

The division recently began a study to determine what the most commonly used drug in Omaha is, Wadman said. The study is based on a federal program titled "Drug Use Forecast," in which felony suspects are tested for drugs to determine which drugs are involved in crimes, he added.

In Los Angeles, Wadman said, much attention has been given to "crack houses" (places where crack is sold); however, the major drug threat is amphetamines. In Washington, D.C., another city with a "crack problem," the most commonly used drug is PCP, he added.

"Should I concentrate on the problem or what is popular with the media?" Wadman asked.

Pageant from page 1

pageants for the past several years. She was Nebraska's 1986 Junior Miss while a senior at Columbus High School in Columbus, Neb.

Competing in pageants has "provided an excellent opportunity for scholarships and exposure for talent and interviews," she said.

Miller defeated 18 other contestants in winning the Miss Nebraska crown, Boe said. The first and second runners-up, Susan O'Rourke and Jaymie Rizzuto, are also UNO students, Boe said.

Miller said she received \$3,300 in scholarships for winning the Nebraska contest. "It's nice to know that I don't have to worry about tuition for the rest of college," she said.

In winning the title, Miller said she was judged in four areas. Talent accounts for 50 percent of a contestant's score, she said. Her act consisted of balancing three glasses of water (one on her forehead and one in each hand) while dancing, Miller said.

Interviews by five judges, swimsuit and evening gown competitions comprise the rest of the evaluation scores, she said.

Her responsibilities as Miss Nebraska, namely making public appearances, may delay her education.

"I won't be in school in the fall because I feel that I wouldn't do school or Miss Nebraska justice," she said. "Besides, I only have a year to be Miss Nebraska, and I want to enjoy it."



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Everything you ever wanted to know about UNO ...

UNO manager moves to Pakistan center

By TIM KALDAHL
Senior Reporter

Ramona Klaasmeyer will be leaving her home in Omaha, and her job as UNO's Grants Accounting manager, in a big way — she leaves for Pakistan the week of July 15.

"It will give us a chance in an international situation," she said. Klaasmeyer will act as the finance officer for UNO's Education Sector Support Project. Klaasmeyer and her husband, John, plan on living in Peshawar, Pakistan, for at least 15 months. They could, however, end up staying longer.

"It will probably be longer," she said. "It depends on what they need."

Klaasmeyer has already had a taste of what life in Pakistan is like. She travelled there twice last year to help set up the Center for Afghanistan Studies. The center concentrates on educating Afghan refugees so they can give back something to their country, she said.

"I didn't have any problems when I went before," she said. Dressing conservatively is something she plans on. Pakistan is a traditional Muslim country. "We plan on following the local traditions and customs."

About 20 local people will be working with the 14 members of the center's staff. Working with Pakistanis is something she's looking forward to despite not being able to speak any of the local languages.

Getting to know the janitors, the drivers, is a great experience," she said. "They smile and shake your hand when they see you."

Her husband John is leaving his job in Omaha as a supervisor at an iron foundry for a possible job in irrigation well maintenance. He'll be teaching how to fix and keep a well going, she said.

"He's actually really excited by the opportunity," she said. They are going to keep their house in Omaha while they are away, she said. Living in Pakistan will take some time to get used to, she said.

"Rush-hour traffic here is tame compared with over there," she said. Farm animals get in the way and street lights are unheard of, she said.

She is, however, bringing some of the comforts of home with her. She plans on taking books, a VCR and a personal computer so she can write letters to family and friends.

Things like TV news, a daily newspaper, being able to drive and going out to eat will be missed, she said.

"There are times when you can't go out for a walk," she said. Religious and political events can make it difficult to go out at times, she said.

But the opportunity to see sights in Pakistan, India and maybe even China makes up for the inconvenience, she said.

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CLOSE UP Omaha And Gangs: Hype

Local leader warns of gang danger in Omaha; national leader urges cooperation to stop it

The concern over street gangs in Omaha has been a favorite issue of community leaders in the past months.

During the last week of May, several civic groups and city organizations held seminars on how gangs begin, their relationship in drug trafficking and problems with race relations.

One national figure invited to discuss this problem was Richard Jordan Jr., an official with the Boy's Club of America in New York City and former gang member.

Jordan said some of the problems that cause young people to join gangs are alienation and the abundance of sex and drug information which wasn't available 20 years ago.

"People must recognize that children are maturing at a much faster rate," Jordan said. "If people do not reach out, do not give them the right answers, then they will go elsewhere, with or without our assistance."

Jordan stressed implementing a program that would instruct parents and teachers on how to identify children who might suffer from alienation. Jordan said the prime age group for youths to turn to gangs is from 10 to 13.

Jordan also said reliable information on AIDS and crack should be made accessible to children because of their harmful consequences.

"Those kids who experiment with drugs and sex are playing Russian roulette with all the chambers full," he said.

"In a gang, a child 14- or 15-years-old can make up to \$3,000 a day by trafficking drugs in a gang," Jordan said. "If they are aggressive, they can triple that. There are some children who have had the strength to say no to this income and to the gangs, even without support."

"We must help fight for them if they have the power to say no to these things," Jordan said. "We must show pride even if we lose."

Jordan said one problem with helping these children is that parents and guardians have problems getting guidance from public services.

"We have no legitimate excuse to lose our children," he said. "But there are some who either don't know where to go, don't know the services or don't trust those in charge. We need to create a human network, one that will bring together all our resources," Jordan said.

The system he advised is one that combines public and private education groups, counseling and employment opportunities.

"Eighty percent of the jobs in the year 2000 will be in the service sector," Jordan said. "These jobs will require

high-tech skills.

"We must look at the 6- and 7-year-olds of today and ask ourselves if they are prepared. If not," he warned, "they will become the next generation of street gangs."

"You have the opportunity to prevent Omaha from becoming a little L.A.," he said.

"I was pleased to see special interest groups dropping egos and agendas to come together," he claimed. "This

"You have the power to prevent Omaha from becoming a little L.A."

— Richard Jordan Jr.

didn't happen in L.A."

Rev. Negil McPherson, leader of the Ministerial Alliance, echoed Jordan's comments.

"Sharing thoughts or cooperation are ways to allay fears," McPherson said. "We must work together with the school systems and the police. It must be the community working together to prevent the growth of gangs."

However, McPherson is not sure if city officials are fully aligned to confront the problem. Mayor Walt Calinger has declared war on gangs, while Police Chief Robert Wadman has not indicated his support of the mayor's position,

McPherson said.

Wadman declined comment about criticism aimed at his position on the gang situation.

The police do not want to frighten people, McPherson said, but Wadman should address the situation and let the public know what danger gangs present.

Despite concern about gang violence, McPherson is not sure gang support is strong among the city's youth.

"Some (youths) wear colors as a status symbol," he said. "It's fashionable to wear colors representing one gang or another. By wearing certain colors it puts (a youth) in."

McPherson supports community involvement in dealing with gangs rather than leaving it up to the police because of "the fear and distrust on both sides."

One way to "bridge the gap is by working together," he said. Recent teen deaths provide an example, McPherson said.

The killing of a white youth at a fast food restaurant by a black youth in north Omaha was treated as murder, while the killing of a white youth by another white teen-ager in west Omaha was treated as manslaughter, he said.

People in the different areas "do not receive the same justice," McPherson said.

Wadman declined to comment on McPherson's example, saying it wouldn't be appropriate to comment on cases that are currently in the courts.

Skinheads 3 comment on claims of gangs, violence and drug trafficking

John, an imposing 18-year-old, does not consider himself a gang member. Although his head is shaved and his arms are covered with homemade tattoos, he doesn't identify with the skinhead gangs that are popular in several major cities.

And while he is white, he doesn't consider himself a member of the white supremacist groups that originated in Britain in the late '70s and moved to the United States in the early 1980s.

About a month ago, John and his friend Dennis, a 17-year-old skin from Tulsa, Okla., moved into a house in east Omaha. Later, they were joined by an 18-year-old skin from San Diego named Czar.

Some recent concerns of community and civic leaders have rested with the growth of gangs and problems such as drug trafficking and violence stemming from these groups. John doesn't believe he falls into this category.

"Naming us as a drug trafficking gang is wrong," John said. "What we are is a group of friends that drink and do stuff together."

"It's impossible for us to do that kind of shit," he said. "Out on the (West) Coast, you could get cocaine for \$800 an ounce," he said. "If you had a good car and 800 bucks to invest, you could come back here and sell it for over \$2000. None of us has that much money."

The only one of the three with any gang experience is Czar, who spent more than a year in Southern California.

"There's a lot of Nazis in California," he said. "San Diego is full of Nazis."

"There's a lot of skins in Tijuana," Czar said. "Mexican skins called the Chollos are kick-ass. I've partied with them before. Some of the others are harsh."

"Down south, (the gangs) have been fighting between themselves all the time," he said. "Their not organized like up north. They're real tight in San Diego."

Czar said he came back to Omaha after getting in trouble with local authorities when he and some others were caught assaulting homosexuals.



The skinheads ... (from left) Dennis, Czar and John in their east Omaha house.

The other skin, Dennis, didn't say why he came to Omaha, but did mention some problems he had in Oklahoma. He still bears a mark on his leg from when a gun he was trying to conceal in his pants went off.

Dennis said he has been a skin since he was 13 and hung around with older skinheads. Dennis said he has little in common with Omaha skins.

"It's really lame here," he said. "Most of the kids here don't have their shit together."

John expressed similar feelings, citing young people at local high schools who dress like them.

"The little kids at Burke with shaved heads are not skinheads," John said. "Most of them are a bunch of poseurs."

"To me," he said, "being a skinhead means having self-worth. It's all about having pride in friends, family

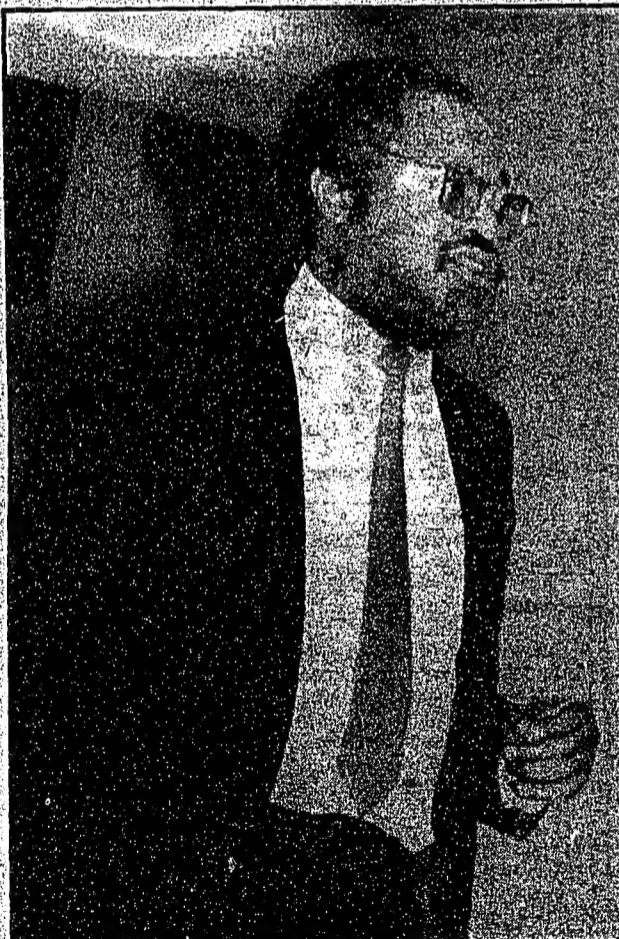
and country."

As for knowledge of other three, said they knew only one and were uncertain if he was still in the existence of white.

identified by local media source, and another called the Hessian.

"I know the guy from west that name," he said. "The 'He' ist."

As for these skinheads, the group for much longer, either. T from their place in east Omaha with his parents, Dennis and (various places until they can fi



Richard Jordan Jr. on May 25, in Omaha. Jordan, a former gang member, is now associated with the Boy's Club of America.



Rev. Negil McPherson, president of the Ministerial Alliance, speaks on gangs. The conference was held at the Lutheran Metropolitan Ministries.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Reilly saves weak 'Promises;' 'Dream' called best ever

If I say nothing else about the current Omaha Workshop Theatre production, *Promises*, it is that Moira Reilly is such a good actress that she can overcome a weak script.

Reilly, a UNO alumna, carried the lead role of Nora Jacobs, a mother and drama coach dying of a cerebral tumor. She was one of the most natural actors on stage,

Judith Bieker

State of the Arts

at ease with her character and not projecting her lines before saying them.

Co-star Mona Eigbrett (also a UNO alumna) could take a few lessons. Playing the role of Nora's old college chum, Lindsay Marshall, Eigbrett was often stiff and unconvincing. I've seen Eigbrett in several roles at UNO. She often has some fine moments when it's possible to believe her character; unfortunately, she hasn't been able to overcome an annoying habit of announcing her lines rather than simply speaking them. Eigbrett has a beautiful contralto speaking voice that will one day work in her favor if only she will put some quality time into her delivery.

Except for looking like a 12-year-old and having some of the worst lines in the script, Colleen Cavanaugh did very well in the role of 17-going-on-18-year-old Virginia Jacobs. Virginia is often vying with her mother for post-mortem custody of her younger sister (mother wants Lindsay to assume the responsibility since she had promised it many years before either of Nora's children were born).

This is where regional playwright Suzanne P. Sather was at her worst. Through the role of Virginia, Sather commits heinous author intrusion by telling us how we should view everyone's actions. In arguing with her mother, Virginia tells us that this is her mother's last act of ultimate control over the uncontrollable circumstances of her soon-to-end life. And we get this more than once. Why does Sather think we aren't intelligent to come to this conclusion on our own?

Cavanaugh and Reilly show a mostly believable mother-daughter relationship on stage, but Cavanaugh's character is written to be much wiser than her chronological age. She's just too much enlightened to be real. Cavanaugh did well despite her part, and that's always commendable.

Katy Deatherage made her Omaha debut in *Promises* as the 12-year-old with Down's Syndrome, Rebecca Jacobs, whose custody is in question. This was



Gerry Phaneuf

'A Midsummer Night's Dream' with Kathleen Mulligan (left) portraying Titania, Queen of the Fairies and Charles Carroll as Bottom, the Weaver.

another of the playwright's weak characterizations. Rebecca gets all of the personally insightful lines about death and theater and guilt.

Every time Rebecca is on stage, there is a harlequin in the surrealistic background, representing Nora's inner vision of her younger daughter, William York Hyde, an OWT regular, plays this clown with heart-warming sensitivity.

These surrealistic intrusions are one of the nicer devices of this play. There are brief scenes from *All's Well That Ends Well*, a play that Nora is directing at the university where she teaches. All of these vignettes are in Nora's mind and so give us an idea of what influences her point of view.

What's hilarious is that the actors for the Shakespeare scenes are excruciatingly horrible. I presume this was intended (but it makes me worry about the success of the dramatic arts department at Nora's university) since one of the scenes has Nora, going over the last rehearsal in her own mind, beating out the rhythmic meter for her actors.

There is also a momentary look at the murder scene in *Of Mice and Men* as it plays in Nora's mind which, again, is a workable device for this script.

Director Michael Deatherage did rather well with this problematic script. He could have insisted on more silences in the first half instead of allowing the actors to fill up the tense moments with nervous chatter.

Over all, the production values of *Promises* are some of the best I've seen from OWT. They should make it a point to get out of the local taverns where they have bargain-basement lighting and set re-

sources.

The current show is playing in the UNO Studio Theatre (Arts & Sciences 215) through Sunday. It's not really that bad, over all, but I hesitate to recommend that anyone shell out the ticket price unless all they care to see is a great performance (as usual) from Moira Reilly.

In spite of the not-so-kind words I had for the Nebraska Shakespeare Festival in last week's column, I claimed a blanket-sized square of the green this past Sunday night for what turned out to be one of the most hilarious productions of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* I've ever seen.

UNO professor Cindy Melby Phaneuf, who directed *The Taming of the Shrew* for the festival last year, again commanded explosive action from the cast. Somehow she is able to get the actors to deliver the revered bard's comedy in a way that is relevant to the joys, dangers and misunderstandings of 20th century love.

More than 8,000 people of all ages populated the hillside on the first weekend (Thursday through Sunday). That's two-and-a-half times the audience for the same period last year. If the dry weather holds out for the weekends at least, attendance should be a phenomenal number whether or not compared to last year.

Who'd have thought so many would turn out for Shakespeare? There were a thick row of pre-teens on the grass in front of me, a number of elementary school age children behind me, and a few wide-eyed tots no taller than the stage standing at the proscenium edge (a real no-no, kids). And all of them, adults and children, were so well behaved.

The best part about it, though, is relax-

See Review on page 12

Jack, Dan & Vickie



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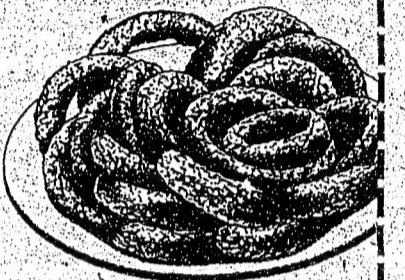
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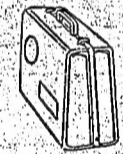


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'Presidio:' not bad for action but 'Croc II' has charm

Good action-adventure thrillers can provide engrossing entertainment. But although "The Presidio" has its moments, it possesses its share of difficulties, as well. Set in contemporary San Francisco, "The Presidio"

Elizabeth Tape

Cinema

opens with a brutal murder on a dark, foggy night. A female soldier is ruthlessly killed by unknown assailants as she conducts a routine surveillance of the Presidio, a military compound at the base of the Golden Gate Bridge. Because a civilian is also involved, the police send Inspector Jay Austin (Mark Harmon) to investigate because of his previous experience there under the command of Provost Marshal Lt. Col. Alan Caldwell (Sean Connery), now the military investigating officer also on the case.

We shortly learn the two had a rather turbulent relationship which was never resolved. Soon after, Inspector Austin meets the Lt. Col.'s stunning daughter Donna (Meg Ryan), an overwhelming passion develops, and amid this quagmire, the film's narrative gets underway.

"The Presidio" has its moments; featuring the requisite San Francisco car chase sequence, it holds one's attention. Its aura of mystery, created by the fog and darkness,



— Ralph Nelson Jr./Paramount Pictures

Sean Connery (left) and Mark Harmon team up in the new action-thriller, "The Presidio."

effectively communicates an air of unease. The chase through Chinatown is wonderfully filmed.

The film starts to wander, however, with its presentation of the characters' interpersonal relationships. The love affair between Jay and Donna, for example, incorporates some stiff, overly fast-paced dialogue. Although Mark Harmon's performance becomes actually touching at times, his efforts to play a "tough guy" seem staged.

To demonstrate the Lt. Colonel's strength, a fight in a local bar is staged. Not only is this scene completely superfluous to the film's plot and character development, its message about the meaning of fortitude is antiquated.

As a corollary comment, this film is about two men; of the women who appear, one plays the role of victim and the other, girlfriend and daughter, highly traditional roles for the film industry.

Overall, "The Presidio" is not a bad film; it generates suspense, though aspects of its conclusion become obvious. It might have been much better, though, had its action plot been more complicated and had it chosen to concentrate further on its thriller aspects.

Another film that did combine action and romance was "Crocodile Dundee II." Although the sequel offers little new material from "Crocodile Dundee," it remains a charming film for precisely the same reasons — the engaging presence of the ever-dashing Mick Dundee (Paul Hogan), back on the screen in full "Crocodile Dundee" form.

The film opens with Mick and Sue (Linda Kozlowski) enjoying co-habitation bliss in her chic New York City apartment. Into this happy calm flies chaos when Sue's former boyfriend is murdered by members of a drug ring immediately after he mailed her photographs incriminating



— Peter Carrette/Paramount Pictures

Aussie Mick Dundee (played by Paul Hogan, left) and his mates star in "Crocodile Dundee II."

this group. Unable to locate the evidence in her apartment, they kidnap her; needless to say, Mick rescues her, arouses the gang's wrath and then leaves with Sue for his beloved outback to prepare for their revenge attack.

Although "Crocodile Dundee II" differs little in style from its predecessor, the strength of Mick Dundee's character suffices to carry this film once again, especially if one's expectations do not escalate. The first "Crocodile Dundee" maintains the factor of Mick's entirely novel character; "II," though, holds the feeling of returning to a good friend. Paul Hogan as Mick Dundee provides a "gold standard" for the often overused word "charisma."

However, the bulk of "Crocodile Dundee II" is slightly thin; setting up a basis for their return to Mick's native land, its suppositions do not follow as smoothly as they might.

But for those who enjoy Mick Dundee, it is likely that "Crocodile Dundee II" can provide a most pleasurable film experience.

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Creations offers change from the same old night spots

By DAVID YELLS
Staff Reporter

The underground music and arts scene in Omaha has recently been graced with a new outlet. It's called Creations Consignments, and you'll find it on the corner of 6th and Pierce Streets.

Creations recently held a grand opening celebration. I was on hand for the music and also had a chance to find out what Creations was all about.

Heidi and George Prescott are the driving forces behind the organization. They felt Omaha was desperately in need of a place like Creations.

"I thought that the whole area was really starving," Heidi said. "There were lots of musicians with no place to play and lots of arts and crafts people with no place to show their work. We hope to give everyone a chance to do their thing and get some exposure."

"Musicians generally play for tip jar wages," she said. "Whenever we have a cover charge, it goes for overhead. The arts and crafts people get 85 percent of what we sell their goods for. That's really a good deal when you consider that most other consignment operations only offer 70 or 75 percent."

Besides the music, Creations also offers a variety of other entertainment. There are short story and poetry readings, movies, short skits and plays. There is also a growing in-house library for patrons to peruse. Current titles include *Catch-22*, *Tarantula* and *A Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*. People are encouraged to stop in and hang out or play cards, checkers and dominoes. Free coffee and tea are available if you bring your own mug.

The ground rules at Creations are simple: there is no dress code to speak of. The main don'ts are "no drugs on the premises" (this includes alcohol) and "no violence." Violations along these lines will result in immediate exile.

I asked Heidi if she anticipated complaints about the noise.

"I really don't expect any problems,"

Heidi said. "Most of the neighborhood is either businesses which are closed at night or empty buildings. The one house nearby which is occupied belongs to a band, so I doubt we'll bother them. Baratta's Bar is right across the street, but they shouldn't complain since they get a good deal of crossover business."

"Well, it turned out that the party was a little noisier than expected. It wasn't too long before some of Omaha's finest were

"In order for things to really develop, it will take a combined effort by the bands, the venues and the media. A lot of bands are willing to perform as long as they can at least meet expenses."

—Jeff Heintzleman

on the scene. There were complaints about the noise and also about people loitering in the streets. Heidi and George ended up spending most of the night trying to keep the door closed and hustling people off the streets.

Heidi and George are also members of *ED Children*, the band that kicked off the grand opening celebration. Heidi sings and George plays bass.

The band's set consisted almost entirely of original material composed by Heidi. The exception was "Hey Ron," based on "Hey Joe," with the lyrics arranged by Heidi in the form of a diatribe against our commander-in-chief. The Velvet Underground's "Sweet Jane" also served to close the set.

The Prescotts credited the local band *The Acorns* with helping get Creations off the ground opening night. Before their set, I asked drummer Jeff Heintzleman for his views on the underground music scene in Omaha.

"Well, it's been pretty dismal," he said. "But lately it's been looking up. I think Creations is a big step in the right direction. A lot of the bigger clubs are still reluctant to book unknown local bands."

"In order for things to really develop, it

will take a combined effort by the bands, the venues and the media. A lot of bands are willing to perform as long as they can at least meet expenses. It's up to the clubs to book the acts and it's up to the media to publicize the shows."

So if you're tired of the same old cover bands and the same old night spots, gamble some spare change and check out Creations. George and Heidi can use your support, and so can the entire Omaha underground music scene.

Ban on smoking ends romance

Now picture this.

You're sitting in the Maverick Room having your 43rd cup of coffee trying to wake up after falling asleep in World Civ. so you'll have enough strength to drag yourself over to Durham so you can do the same in Physics for Airheads. When all of a sudden . . . to your surprise . . . out of the clear blue sky . . . there she is . . . Oh Yes!

"Got a light?" she pouts. You didn't think women like this existed. Not at UNO, anyway. Nervously, you fumble through your belongings. You find a match. You light her cigarette. She sits down, you talk, you take her home, eventually marry, and go on to lead a comfortable, lucrative life. It used to happen this way.

But not any more. Seems the boys upstairs are concerned about you. They're concerned about your health. They don't wanna see youse guys lightin' no more of them damn cigarettes — you can't smoke at UNO. And I applaud their efforts.

After all, the Surgeon General has determined that smoking is hazardous to your health.

OK, now let's go back to the Maverick Room. Maybe you didn't realize it, but when you're sitting up there, and some person, usually of the opposite sex, comes up and asks you for a light — IT MEANS THEY ARE INTERESTED! Didn't you find it odd that they took the trouble to fight their way across the room through a sea of people over to

where you were seated in the no smoking section to ask you for a light?

Asking a person for a match is one of the safest ice breakers known to human kind. You need something that another person has (you can read into that if you want to), and if you don't get any sort of warm response from the person lighting your *stick of death*, you can bow out gracefully by thanking them for

Brad Thiel

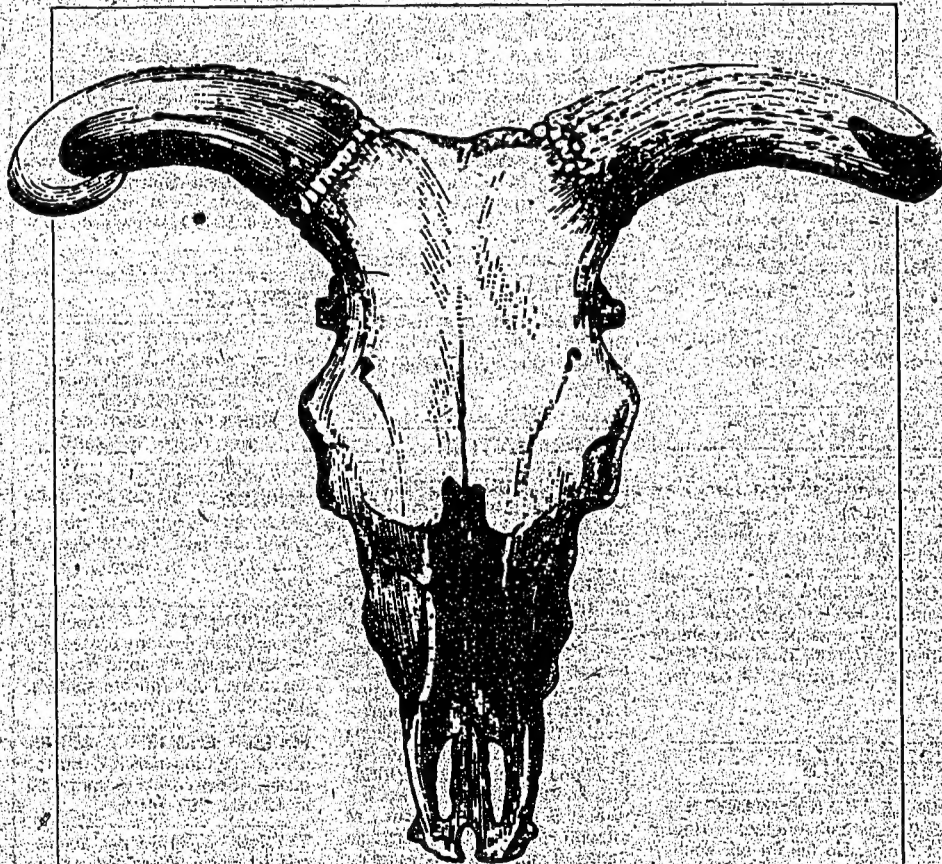
Entertainment Columnist

the light and getting the hell out of there.

But remember: **Smoking causes lung cancer, heart disease, emphysema and may complicate pregnancy.**

You know, having UNO tell me I can't smoke is nice, in a way. To me, UNO is like the big brother I never had. Woe, not that kind of big brother. Not Big Brother. No-o-o-o-o. A big brother. The kind that you would follow around and try to emulate by wearing football jerseys like his and cussing when mom and dad weren't around. *That* kind of big brother.

Since this is supposed to be an entertainment column, I'll tell you to be the first on your block with a new album by the Sugarcubes titled *Life's Too Good*. You'll be glad you did. And remember: Smoking may be bad for you, but at least it doesn't have any calories.



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Arts from page 8

ing on a grassy hillside under the summer sky. There's nothing to do except to talk with friends, sip a cool drink and enjoy some really fine theatre.

If you missed *A Midsummer Night's*

Dream last weekend, you can still catch it on July 7 and 9. *Hamlet, Prince of Denmark* is playing tonight through Sunday, July 8 and 10 on the same stage. If you don't see it now, you'll have to wait until next year.

Survey from page 1

are victims of crimes committed by people they know, or even by relatives," Fridell said. "A lot of times, people just think it's no big deal, like if a mailbox has been stolen, so they don't report it. The last reason is because people don't think the police will be able to do anything about it."

The survey is being conducted throughout 1,200 homes in the area, she said. Only one person from each household will be interviewed; special screening techniques are used to determine who will be selected, Fridell said. This technique will ensure researchers an even representation, she added.

Fridell said the survey is a random sample that uses census data. Neighborhood blocks are selected — a type of census

measure — and five households per block are then targeted.

Each person selected for the interview will receive a letter from Fridell or Spohn describing the survey, she said. The individuals are contacted within a week by an interviewer for an appointment. Fridell said this is the ideal scenario, but "there's a lot of households that don't have phones, and so the first contact after the letter is indeed on the doorstep."

Fridell said it is as important to interview non-victims as well as victims because it will estimate the incidents of victimization and give a comparison of the two groups.

Fridell said the report will be made public in the spring.

Funds approved

Arts building costs increase

By RICHARD L. CUMMINGS
Contributing Writer

Before any ground is broken for a new fine arts education building, UNO officials have requested an additional \$3.5 million for the project.

The proposal for \$9.95 million was appropriated by the legislature during its session last spring. The original request was almost \$6.4 million.

The project was given fourth priority in construction by the University of Nebraska Board of Regents during its June meeting. It is the top project to be completed at UNO.

The main reason for the increase was the need for more classroom space, according to Dave Irvin, manager of Physical Plant-Facilities Planning and Space Management.

"We just don't have the elbow room right now," Irvin said concerning the current campus facilities.

Ideally, the plan will include facilities for drama, art, Writer's Workshop and television and radio production, Irvin said. Television and radio production, not part of the College of Fine Arts, would be included.

Irvin said it would prove more economical to house television and radio production in the same building. Television and drama would be able to share the scene shop, while the arrangement would also allow for easier broadcast of the drama department's productions.

Placing the television studio in the

new building would also open up needed space in the Engineering Building, he added.

David Shrader, dean of the College of Fine Arts, said the new building will have a 400-seat theater. The theater is currently located in Arts and Sciences Hall.

The building also will house the dean's office, an art gallery and eight general classrooms, Shrader said. The sculpture and ceramics labs would remain in a new building just west of the HPER Building.

Inflation was another reason for the increase, Irvin said. The original request was made in 1986.

Funding for the facility received a shot in the arm from the legislature earlier this spring when it approved \$160,000 for the planning stage, Shrader said.

"We didn't ask for the money," he said. "The legislature saw the need and gave us the funds."

Shrader and Irvin said senators indicated their support for the project by overriding Gov. Kay Orr's veto of the planning money.

Sen. Vard Johnson, District 8, agreed. Johnson said he was "astounded at how inadequate" the current fine arts facilities are. Many senators are supportive of the project, he added.

Shrader said he did not want to rely solely on the legislature for funding. Private donations will be accepted, he said.

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